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Arafat Assured of Continuing Korean Support for Sovereign State Plan

President Kim Il Sung and PLO Chairman Arafat chatting in a cordial and friendly atmosphere on Oct. 10. KCNA Radiophoto

President Kim Il Sung assured visiting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of the continuing full support of his government and people for the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people.

PLO Chairman made a three-day visit to the DPRK from Oct. 10 to 12 at the invitation of President Kim Il Sung, before flying into Tokyo.

The DPRK leader called the PLO "the sole authoritative and dignified representative of the Palestinian people" and recalled the fact that it "won official recognition of many countries" while holding "its legitimate place in the non-aligned movement and in a number of international organizations."

For a comprehensive and fair solution of the Middle East problem, the DPRK leader called for an end to the aggressive and interventionist behavior of the imperialists and Zionists and the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem.

President Kim Il Sung, describing the importance of the respective struggles to each other as complementary, expressed thanks to the PLO Chairman for opposing the "two-Korea" policy and supporting the proposal to achieve a negotiated Korean reunification under a bi-system confederation.

PLO Chairman Arafat, expressing thanks to the support of the Korean people for the just struggle of the Palestinian people, explained the need to "found a sovereign state of Palestine on the Palestinian territory, the capital of which is Jerusalem."

These remarks of the DPRK and PLO leaders on the Oct. 10 evening might spotlight the nature of the two rounds of their official talks held the same day. (See Texts of Speeches on Page 2)

The speeches were made at the banquet arranged by President Kim Il Sung at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall.

The visiting Arafat was on Oct. 10 awarded a Statuette of the Anti-Imperialist Fighter and on Oct. 11 the title of Hero of the DPRK, the Gold Star Medal and the Order of the National Flag First Class.

5 Presidential Appearances for On-Spot Guidance: Increased Grain Output Stressed

During a period from Aug. 16 to Oct. 11, President Kim Il Sung showed up at five places to give what the Korean Central News Agency termed on-the-spot guidance, the KCNA reported.

One source observed the DPRK leader was constantly crisscrossing the country, covering urban and rural areas, most of which were not reported. That source said what characterized the presidential leadership was "remaining in touch with the population and the reality."

According to the KCNA, the latest two appearances concerned the effort to boost agricultural production.

President Kim Il Sung on Oct. 11 told the Ryongsong Experimental Station of the Academy of Agricultural Science to mass-produce various types of rice harvesters with varying sizes and horse power to work under different geological conditions.

He inspected its newly-made farm machines and set forth tasks to be carried out for the comprehensive mechanization of agriculture.

He stressed the need for scientists and technicians to enlist the experience and wisdom of the producer farmers. They were also told to raise many high-yield seeds suited to the climate of Korea and conduct extensive experimental cultivation.

In his Oct. 9 on-the-spot guidance at Farm No. 7, the chief executive saw manurial crops being cultivated there and emphasized their widespread cultivation across the country to increase grain production.

Calling manurial crops very good for increased grain output and livestock products, the President observed that they would greatly help to improve the fertility of soil. They, he stressed, should be sown after the maize harvest as its after crop.

The other three presidential appearances were on Sep. 26 at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang, on Sep. 22 at various enterprises in South Pyongan Province and on Aug. 16-20 in various domains of the economy in South Hamgyong Province.

Kim Jong Il Receives Chongryun Vice-Chairman

Mr. Kim Jong Il, a virtual number two leader after the chief executive, received on Sept. 18 Chongryun vice-Chairman Li Gye Baek for his first reported meeting with anyone visiting the DPRK.

The 39-year-old young leader, after talking with the guest, arranged a luncheon in honor of the vice-Chairman, which proceeded in a cordial atmosphere.

The vice-Chairman conveyed to the young leader warm congratulations and greetings from the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and 700,000 Korean residents in the island country.

Mr. Kim Jong Il was accompanied by Minister of People's Armed Forces O Jin U, concurrently Member of the WPK CC Political Bureau Presidium and two Members and one Alternate Member of the Political Bureau.

82nd Remittance of Educational Aid Fund to Koreans Here

423,400,000 yen in Japanese currency was transferred to the Korean community in Japan for the 82nd remittance of educational aid and stipends, the Korean Central News Agency reported on Oct. 10.

The report said the remittance brought to 31,651,227,033 yen the grand total of the foreign currency fund sent to assist the educational program of the Koreans in this country.

The 81st remittance was reported by the KCNA on Sep. 7. The transfer were made in the name of the DPRK chief executive Kim Il Sung.

Student Unrest at 2 Seoul Universities

Compiled from Wire Services

Reports reaching here from Seoul said at least two universities were involved in two student protest actions during October and three universities in three actions during September.

During an Oct. 7 demonstration on the campus, over 500 students of Songgyungwan University in Seoul marched, chanting slogans, demanding the resignation of Gen. Chon Du Hwan.

A riot police squad moved into the campus and arrested a number of slogan-chanting students.

On Oct. 4 one student of Sejong College in the city distributed more than 300 anti-Chon Du Hwan leaflets to students on a corridor of the school. The incident took place at around 11 AM.

The leaflets reportedly urged the students to struggle for the overthrow of the junta.

Chong Yong Su, a male student, produced the number of literature on Sep.20 at his sister's home in Kuro-dong No. 2, Yongdungpo district, Seoul.

Chong was arrested on Oct. 14 by the police on charges of violating the Law on Assembly and Demonstration.

The latest incident in September involved a number of students of Kyonghui University in Seoul.

Around 1: 20 PM, Sep. 29, three students of that university turned up on the rooftop of the building of the College of Liberal Arts and Science, carrying a placard in their hands.

Slogan-chanting students scattered leaflets, calling upon fellow students to demonstrate in demand of the ouster of the strongman Chon.

A number of students responded to the appeal and carried out an on-campus demonstration.

The Sep. 29 protest action was made public on Oct. 7 when the arrest of three students was revealed.

The three students, Kim Myong Gi, Chong Hui Gu and Kim Gi Sun, were charged with violating the Law on Assembly and Demonstration.

The two earlier student protests were reported by the PK (Oct. 10 and Oct. 3).

Nearly 200 students participated in the Sep. 29 incident at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and an unspecified number of students were involved in the Sep. 17 action at Seoul National University.

The students of the school of foreign studies criticized the attempt of Gen. Chon to cement his questionable relations with the Japanese Government.

Veep Pak, Carter Agree on Need to Exchange Views

Vice-President Pak Sung Chul happened to talk with Jimmy Carter, former American President when both were attending the funeral service for the late Mohamed Anwar El Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

The news was given prominence by news agencies and newspapers of the world.

The encounter took place on Oct. 10 in Cairo when the DPRK vice-President was heading the government delegation to the funeral.

When vice-President Pak Sung Chul asked him, "Isn't it good for us to meet with each other and exchange views?" Carter answered, "Though I am not President now, I think so and hopes for reunification of Korea."

Ms Jean Kirkpatrick Attends DPRK Reception: Freudian Slip?

American Ambassador to the United Nations Ms Jean Kirkpatrick happened to attend a reception hosted by the DPRK Permanent Observer to the United Nations on the evening of Oct. 15 in New York.

Reuter quoted one official present at the reception as saying that the American diplomat stayed there for about 20 minutes.

The next day, the Foggy Bottom explained that the ambassador, planning to attend another reception on the same floor as the DPRK's, mistakenly found her way into the DPRK reception.

One American diplomatic observer in Tokyo termed the incident "a Freudian slip."

Whatever the reason, the reported "mistake" in turning up at the DPRK reception is illustrative of the way how American diplomacy is being conducted.

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Speech of President Kim Il Sung

Follows the full text of the speech of President Kim Il Sung at the Oct. 10 banquet: *(Subtitles are ours . . . . Ed.)*

Esteemed Comrade Chairman Yasser Arafat,
Courageous Palestinian Fighters,
Comrades and friends,

It was with great pleasure that we met today the goodwill envoy of the Arab people of Palestine from the foremost front of the anti-imperialist struggle.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Government of the Republic and the Korean people and on my own behalf, I warmly welcome you Comrade Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Commander-in-Chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces, and your entourage.

Comrade Chairman Yasser Arafat, you are the outstanding leader of the heroic Palestinian people and resistance fighters who are waging a protracted armed struggle against imperialism and Zionism and a staunch anti-imperialist revolutionary fighter.

Through your visit to our country we are keenly feeling the deep militant friendship and fraternal intimacy of the fighting Palestinian people and revolutionary armed forces for the Korean people.

Today the Palestine problem is a focal point of world-wide concern and the unyielding fighting spirit of the Palestinian people has become an example for the oppressed and humiliated peoples.

Sole Legitimate Representative of Palestinian People

The resourceful and courageous Palestinian people with a long history and cultural traditions have been waging a daring struggle against the occupiers ever since their beloved homeland was overrun by the aggressors.

The liberation struggle of the Palestinian people entered a new stage of development from the time when you, Comrade Chairman, held higher the torch of the armed struggle at its head and, thenceforth, the forces of the Palestinian liberation struggle have steadily grown in strength.

The PLO which was born out of the flames of struggle has become the beacon of hope throwing a gleam of rebirth on the Palestinian people suffering in misfortunes.

The sole authoritative and dignified lawful representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO has today won official recognition of many countries of the world and holds its legitimate place in the non-aligned movement and in a number of international organisations.

The Korean people heartily rejoice over and warmly hail many successes achieved by the Palestinian people in the arduous struggle for the liberation and independence of the homeland and territorial integrity under the leadership of the PLO you lead.

The Korean people have always expressed firm support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people to retake Palestine, their sacred homeland, and restore their inalienable, legitimate national rights, including the right to return home, the right to self-determination and the right to found a sovereign state. The Korean people will as ever stand firm on the side of the Palestinian people till final victory.

End to U.S., Zionist Aggression & Total Withdrawal

Unless the Palestine question is completely solved, it is impossible to preserve a durable peace in the Middle East.

Now the Middle East situation is becoming complicated and tense with each passing day, and this part of the world has turned into one of the most dangerous hotbeds of a new global war. This is because the U.S. imperialists, using the Israeli aggressors as their shock force, are intensifying their manoeuvres for aggression and war to strangle the national-liberation movement of the Arab peoples and bring the Middle East under their domination.

The recent agreement on "strategic cooperation" which was signed between the United States and Israel is a criminal move to strengthen their hostile policy towards the Arab countries and increase the danger of a new war in this region.

The Korean people vehemently denounce the Israeli aggressors for their savage suppression of the just struggle of the Palestinian people, for their ceaseless outrageous challenges and aggressive manoeuvres against the neighbouring Arab countries and for disturbing peace and security in this region under the overt manipulation of the U.S. imperialists.

For a comprehensive and fair solution of the Middle East problem the aggressive and interventionist activities of the imperialists and Zionists in this region must be terminated, the Israeli aggressors be completely withdrawn from all the occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem.

Though the imperialists' aggressive and suppressive machinations for maintaining and expanding the sphere of domination are becoming ever more vicious, the liberation struggles of the peoples for freedom and independence are surging high and constantly advancing.

When the Arab peoples with long fighting traditions and vast potentialities firmly unite and struggle, they will be able to win a shining victory in the sacred cause of restoring the national rights of the Palestinian people and defending the dignity of the Arab nation.

We take this opportunity to express full support and firm solidarity once again for the just struggle of the Arab peoples to defend national independence and dignity, retake the occupied Arab lands and achieve the liberation cause of the Palestinian people.

PLO Opposition to "Two-Korea" Policy

The struggles of the peoples against domination and subjugation and for independence and liberation complement each other.

When the Palestinian people are not free, other Arab peoples cannot be free, nor can the Asian and African peoples be free.

The Korean people and Palestinian people have always supported and cooperated closely as revolutionary comrades-in-arms in the common cause of opposing imperialism and its lackeys and retaking the occupied countries.

Unswervingly true to their revolutionary obligation to the Korean people, the Palestine Liberation Organisation has dealt a decisive blow at all the crafty moves of the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique to rig up "two Koreas" and fully supported our new proposal to achieve the reunification of the country by means of founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

We always remember this and are grateful for this.

The road of revolution is arduous. But the Korean people and Palestinian people will continue to firmly unite and struggle and definitively achieve a common victory.

Holding high the banner of anti-imperialism and independence, we will as ever strengthen unity and cooperation with the peoples of the socialist countries, non-aligned countries and Third World countries and actively encourage and support the revolutionary struggle of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and the oppressed peoples of the world for independence and liberation.

Respected Comrade Chairman,

Your current visit to our country will be an epochal event in consolidating and adding lustre to the militant friendship and solidarity between the Korean people and Palestinian people established in the common struggle for independence, sovereignty and national liberation and will be a great contribution to strengthening the bonds of friendship forged among the peoples of the fighting countries.

Although we are meeting you Comrade Chairman today for the first time, you are a close comrade-in-arms and revolutionary comrade who has long established fraternal relations with us through various channels in the common struggle against imperialism.

We are convinced that through this meeting we will further deepen our mutual comradeship and achieve fine success in increasing the militant solidarity between the Korean and Palestinian peoples.

Here at this place overflowing with joy at meeting resistance fighters of Palestine, our close comrades-in-arms, may I propose a toast to the indestructible militant friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Palestinian Arab peoples,

To the final victory of the national-liberation struggle of the Palestinian Arab people,

To the solidarity of the world's people advocating independence,

To the health of your esteemed Comrade Chairman Yasser Arafat,

To the health of the guests from Palestine and

To the health of all comrades and friends present here.

Speech of Chairman Yasser Arafat

Follows the speech made by Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Oct. 10 banquet: *(Subtitles are ours. . . . Ed.)*

Respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il Sung, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Dear comrades and friends,

I, on behalf of our Palestinian people fighting on the forefront, the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the members of the Palestine delegation who are my brothers, and on my own behalf, express deep thanks from the bottom of my heart for the warm hospitality and welcome accorded us from the moment of our arrival in your country as your guests.

Warm friendship and sincerity that shone in the eyes of tens of thousands of people welcoming us fully reflect the might of militant bonds between our two peoples fighting against U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Deep Thanks to Korean Support

Your friendly country led by the respected and beloved, great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, a friend of the Palestinian people, has given active support to our struggle against U.S. imperialism and Zionism, consistently standing on the side of our people and armed revolution, guided by the revolutionary idea he instilled into the hearts of the resourceful people of this country.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved brother and friend,

The fighters of Palestine and Lebanon embraced in the joint armed forces highly estimate the fact that you, truly standing on the side of our revolution together with the honest-minded and free friends of the world, support the just right of our people and render continued assistance and support to us even under difficult conditions.

This helps our Palestinian people and the Lebanese people struggle in the occupied Arab lands and abroad against the brutal and savage manoeuvres and the criminal and destructive war perpetrated by the Zionist enemy against our people.

U.S. Common Enemy

The U.S. imperialists supply the Zionists with most sophisticated death tools banned internationally to let them destroy our Palestinian camps, Lebanese towns and villages and even the heart of Beirut.

Falling victims to these acts of theirs, our defenceless women and old folks are killed and crippled and undergo sufferings.

The crushing defeat suffered by the aggressive and imperialist Zionists in the Sixth Israel-Palestine War in July last year marked an important milestone in the history of our revolutionary struggle.

A militant outstanding leader of our people Majed Abu Sharar, Member of the FATAH Central Committee and Chief of the Public Relations Department of Palestine, was assassinated in Rome yesterday by agents of Zionism and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

We regard this as an assassination against our people committed to execute the criminal policy of the United States and, at the same time, an extended military operation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

It is the U.S. imperialists who, on the side of our Zionist enemy, back him behind the scene to violate the legitimate rights of our Palestinian people and exploit the people of our region and plunder the wealth of our country.

The United States pursues a policy of opposing the great Korean people and reunification of Korea and supporting the south Korean traitors, its stooges who are allied with Israel for the execution of the policy of their imperialist master.

The U.S. imperialists are further revealing their ugly colour in our region.

The U.S. imperialists proclaimed their criminal strategic alliance with our Zionist enemy in order to seize this region and Zionize it and leave it in a state of division, backwardness and subordination, established military bases and deployed a fleet around this region to intensify imperialist exploitation and plunder, and formed a quick-reaction force.

About one month after the criminal bombing of the atomic reactor of Iraq, Beirut became the second Arab capital to be bombed by Israelis with U.S. planes and U.S. bombs.

But for the ceaseless support of the U.S. imperialists in all fields military, political, economic and technical, such aggressive manoeuvres would not have been perpetrated.

Respected and beloved Comrade President,

Dear comrades,

Today the Palestine revolution is confronted with such dangerous strategical alliance and arrogant imperialist policy under the arduous and difficult circumstances, but our people who are determined to consistently wage a just struggle are growing in strength with the support of the honest-minded and free friends of the world and hardening their determination to persistently cope with aggression.

The fighting Palestinian people are firmly convinced that despite whatever difficulty and sacrifice they will surely win victory.

Plan to Found Sovereign Palestinian State

Comrade President, respected and beloved friend,

Under such difficult conditions, we are beholding your friendly country with the conviction that you will stand as ever on our side.

We are fighting in the same trench of struggle against the malicious aggression of U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Your victory is precisely ours and our strength in opposing aggression is precisely yours.

Our fighters highly estimate the support you are giving to our struggle in political, military and all other fields, convinced of the justness of our people's line of armed struggle.

You are supporting our just cause and the legitimate rights of our people including the right to return home, the right to self-determination and the right to found a sovereign state of Palestine on the Palestinian territory, the capital of which is Jerusalem.

This proceeds from the international legitimacy and from U.N. resolutions including resolution No. 3236 presupposing the establishment of fair and durable peace in this region.

Respected and beloved Comrade President,

Friends,

The Palestinian people and the fraternal Korean people have many things in common.

Moreover, our two peoples are fighting in the same trench against the common enemy. Therefore, their hopes and desires are linked with each other as one.

Through their armed struggle our Palestinian people try to liberate Palestine, return to their homeland and build their independent state in the land of Palestine.

Bi-System Koryo Confederation

We know that your heroic people under the wise guidance and care of you Comrade President are struggling to bring the day when they reunify the two parts of divided Korea into one and turn the Korean Peninsula into a country of peace and harmony.

(Continued on page 4)

Japanese Savants on Non-Aligned Food Symposium (Aug. 26—31, Pyongyang)

Two Japanese savants contributed to The People's Korea articles on the agricultural symposium of non-aligned and other developing countries held in Pyongyang between Aug. 26 and 31. They commented on the agricultural symposium with close reference to Japan's agricultural situation.

The two savants were: Mr. Hishinuma Tatsuya, Chief Editor of The Narita Shimbun, a tabloid monthly newspaper published in Chiba Prefecture and former professor at the Tokyo University of Education; and Prof. Soejima Tanenori at Aichi University:

Japanese Lessons from Symposium

—By Hishinuma Tatsuya, Former Professor at Tokyo University of Education—

I was attracted by agriculture in the DPRK not only because of its socialist management. It was 20 years ago that I heard that the DPRK had started livestock development by breeding rabbits and ducks. I was most attracted by this fact. At that time, Japan started importing feed for livestock from the U.S. This resulted in making the Japanese livestock industry stand on a weak foundation. The DPRK implemented its agricultural policy—maintaining independence, correctly using natural conditions in a way suited to the country, and respecting farmers and developing agriculture in a human-centered way. I completely supported this policy. I came to know the DPRK because of its policy of raising rabbits and ducks.

Japan's Food Self-Sufficiency Rate : 35%

At the Chilgol Cooperative Farm, outside of Pyongyang, this year's estimated per-hectare rice harvest is 7.5 tons. From this figure, its per-ten-are yield of unpolished rice is estimated at 10.7 bags. An increase of two bags in six years as compared with a per-hectare yield of unpolished rice amounting to 8.8 bags at a DPRK's farm which I visited.

Japan's food self-sufficiency rate is 35 percent. The U.S. grain output is going down due to "controls."

Government Does Not Regard Agriculture as Important

I read reports on the Agricultural Symposium of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries held in Pyongyang in late August , and reflected on the conditions of present-day Japanese agriculture.

The DPRK's representative said in his report: "Our experience proves that irrigation can more than triple crop yields even without the introduction of mechanized farming operation.

"They should create their own industries serving agriculture and steadily develop them according to their ability on the principle of starting with small projects and then gradually going over to larger ones, from simple to complicated and modern ones from low to higher stages."

The above statement is very much related to technical problems. Of course, different natural conditions should be considered when the DPRK's methods of agricultural development are applied to agriculture in other countries. However, at least, Japan under weather conditions similar to those in the DPRK, will be able to apply them to its agriculture.

Nevertheless, the Japanese government which is supposed to be responsible for introduction of irrigation systems, does not actively promote irrigation of farm lands. Japanese agriculture depends on "mechanization," using machines made by money-making farm-machine makers. As a result, most farmers who have spent a lot of money on farm machines are suffering from poverty caused by "mechanization." In addition, the government is going to carry out a so-called "administrative reform", which is designed to delay "land amelioration projects." This is out of the question. Whenever rice is produced more than enough, the government tells farmers to cultivate crops other than rice. However, it never tries to provide even basic conditions necessary for farmers to do so.

This is not the only reason that makes Japanese farmers difficult to change crops they cultivate. Another serious reason is the fact that Japan imports large quantities of soybeans, wheat and barley and other agricultural products from the U.S.

It is high time for the Japanese to critically examine Japan's agricultural situation. The Japanese government, which does not regard agriculture as important, imports whatever the U.S. wants to export, in order to make it easier for Japan to sell cars, insisting that the government is doing for the people's interests. It is a matter for regret that most Japanese people are believing such a government.

Gives Answers to All Present Agricultural Problems

Regarding this point, the symposium taught us many things.

It gave an answer to the question of how to develop agriculture and industry in a balanced way, and stressed that a country which depends on any advanced countries for food supply would not be able to attain a complete political independence. The food problem must be solved, first by developing one's own agriculture and then, by promoting bilateral cooperation with friendly countries.

The symposium stressed that the most important potential force in agricultural development was human resources, especially force of women and youths.

The Pyongyang Declaration in item 32 said: "It is of great importance that all efforts should be made in the field of nutritional education as well as in the improvement of food consumption mainly vis-a-vis socially and nationally unacceptable distortions that may arise."

This part can be considered to be a full answer to Japan's present agricultural (food) problems.

All the reports made by delegates from 81 countries at the Pyongyang symposium boil down to this conclusion. I was impressed by this fact.

For National Independence in Agriculture, Rectifying Distorted Japanese Agriculture

From now on, we have to advance with our own strength. Because, as I said before, Japan is an "advanced" capitalist country in which politics is conducted according to capitalists' interests. As a result, Japan has become an industrialized country by sacrificing agriculture at the bottom.

Imbalance between industry and agriculture has created social ills in various ways. People have come to think that throwing things away after using them only once is taken for granted, and finally, there is a tendency in people's thinking to think light of human lives. (suicides, murders, etc.) We can not ignore this tendency any longer.

The Reagan administration flattered Japan by saying Japan is a U.S. ally, while threatening Japan, saying, "Japan will collapse if its oil import is stopped", in order to urge Japan to increase its defense build-up.

After all, Japan is more "developed" than non-aligned and developing countries, but its "development" is abnormal.

Rulers never endeavor to get rid of such social ills. They intends to govern by false politics, making people blind and deaf.

So, we have to learn from some honest-minded Americans who are making efforts to clean up their society, criticising the unjust, including the President. In order to do so, first, we have to liberate ourselves from the state in which we are turned into the captives of consumption life, to maintain "the spirit of full responsibility for attaining food self-sufficiency in their respective nations." (Item 32 of the Pyongyang Declaration)

Rich crops are annual events in the countryside of the DPRK, despite worldwide adverse weather conditions. Photo shows a maize harvest in the Ryongyang Cooperative Farm in N. Hwanghae Province.

DPRK in International Agricultural Development

—By Soejima Tanenori, Professor at Aichi University—

Domination and Plunder Produce Agricultural Crisis

Today, a great number of people are suffering from starvation and malnutrition and the number is increasing. Considering this situation, the agricultural symposium held in Pyongyang should be reported more widely in Japan, too. However, on the ground that Japan does not recognize the DPRK as a state, newspapers did not report in detail on the symposium. This is also due to the fact that no newspapers have a permanent correspondent in Pyongyang.

It is hardly believable that more than 2 billion people are starving or are suffering from malnutrition in the last quarter of the 20th centuries, when science and technology have made great progress.

This tragedy is caused not only by the lack of the food-supply capacity of developing countries where populations are rapidly increasing. Among developing and backward countries which are believed to have attained independence ostensibly after the collapse of the old imperialist-colonial system, there are many countries suffering from neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and other forms of domination and subjugation. This situation has brought about wars and armed conflicts among states, nations, and races. In countries with backward agriculture, these conflicts have made their food production difficult. The Pyongyang Declaration paid special attention to the need to put an end to such a situation in developing countries and to develop agriculture and diversify production.

The words "national and collective self-reliance" are found here and there in the declaration. These words are supposed to mean that non-aligned and other developing countries should make efforts to attain self-reliance in solving food and agricultural problems, and that at the same time, they have to cooperate with each other, advanced countries helping backward countries with their experiences and technology. By doing so, they will be able to achieve successes collectively and internationally.

The DPRK will play an important role in the cooperation, because it has achieved great successes in its agricultural development. It is quite natural that many speakers at the symposium praised the brilliant successes the DPRK had achieved. However, many of the participant countries are in weather and geological conditions different from those of the DPRK. They grow crops under agricultural conditions different from those of the DPRK. Therefore, when other countries apply the DPRK's methods of agriculture to their own they have to follow the principle of self-reliance.

Item 38 of the Pyongyang Declaration is of great importance as it concerns cooperation in development and utilization of water resources.

The Japanese daily newspaper Asahi Shimbun printed in its September 13 issue a map of deserts and areas in the process of being turned into deserts, a map prepared by the U.N. Conference on Desertification. The situation in the world is quite serious. Many non-aligned and developing countries are included in the areas which are in "mid-danger" of desertification. In these areas, afforestation must be promoted with international support, especially with technical, scientific and economic support from Western countries. I read the Pyongyang Declaration and thought what Japan should do in this respect.

Task Assigned to Japanese

The map includes India and Southeast Asian areas in safe areas. Countries there have monsoons. The Japanese capitalists who have made economic inroads in Western and Southern Pacific countries, are cutting down trees, now that they have exhausted wood reserves in Japan. People in these areas say that "falling is done faster than planting." The Japanese ruling circles are to blame for this state of affairs.

For the capitalists, these present money-making business is more important than the world people's future. The Japanese government serves the interests of these capitalists.

We Japanese are capable of helping reduce the number of starving and under-nourished people, helping backward countries increase food production and promote agricultural development. However, the Japanese ruling circles, like those in other economically advanced countries, are "squandering enormous amounts of resources which could be dedicated to promoting peace and development in the arms race which has become intolerable and thwarts all efforts to maintain peace."

Since the nuclear-armament race will possibly be intensified in the world, the Japanese people's anti-nuclear movements must be strengthened, by cooperating with activists in foreign countries. At the same time, the Japanese people have to appeal strongly to the Suzuki Cabinet for a stop to defense buildup, without yielding to the U.S. request. If Japan has surplus financial capacity, she must spend it on helping developing countries in their economic and cultural development and in raising their peoples' living standard. This is the task of all the democratic forces of Japan.

S. Korean Labor Unions after Kwangju Incident

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second part of the south Korean labor unions after the Kwangju incident "published by the South Korean Workers' Federation in Germany:

3) The only "crimes" committed by the Wonpung Mobang Chapter and the Pando Sangsa Chapter are that the two chapters have won the confidence of many workers because the two, for the good of the entire textile workers, have fought against Chairman Kim Yong Tae who committed irregularities and illegal suppressive acts with the active backing of the yusin government.

It is said that the real reasons for their dismissal was the active contact they made with outside forces. The outside forces are said to be the Urban Industrial Mission and the Catholic Association of Young Christian Workers.

Allegations that connections between churches and workers forment social unrest, are intended by the Ministry of Labor and the front-line policemen to evade their responsibility and to cover up their acts of injustice, and are also intended for self-justification by corrupt union leaders who amassed fortunes, utilizing their posts in the labor unions, and treated workers badly.

On the contrary, it is precisely due to workers' approaches to churches that the union members were able to conduct their activities conscientiously within a certain limited framework. The tragic Sabuk incident and other ones which occurred in the Inchon Iron & Steel Company and Tongkook Steel Works are eloquent evidence of this.

B) The Purification Drive Was Abused to Oust Opponents

Most members of the Metal Workers' Union who were listed to be purged, were opponents to ex-chairman of the All Metal Workers' Union Kim Byong Yong.

Of the 20 people on the list, almost everyone enjoyed positive support from the unionists for the protection of workers' rights and for the promotion of their welfare.

Many pople were resented over the company's decision to purge those good people and saw it as a typical case in which the government winked at the abuse of the purification drive.

C) Those Who Should Have Been Purged, Decided Who Should Be Purged

Kim Je In, deputy chairman of the Textile Workers' Union, was a government-inspired leader who did nothing to improve the bad working conditions of his union members and made a fortune. He was always on a joy ride.

He lived lavishly although his union members worked for a low wage of 70,000-80,000 won a month. He was blamed for all this.

This kind of man became a member of a group who decided who should be purged. It was too clear that the purification drive would not be conducted in a proper way and that "purification" was only a slogan.

D) Many Who Should Be Purged Remain

1) Kang Chang Su, chairman of the Namyong Nylon Chapter, was a gangster before he became a local union leader. He was one of those who were on the spot when female workers of the Tongil Textile Company were made to eat feces.

He is a kind of labor Mafia who always carried a knife with him and threatened the unionists who were against him and protested against his mistakes. And recently, he purchased a car and was always driving a car. He was the very man who bad to be purged.

2) Son In Hwan, Chairman of the Taeil Hwahak (Chemical) Chapter, was elected to his position with the strong backing of company management. He transferred employees from the main factory in Seoul to the Osan factory without due notice. After that, he didn't care about those transferred workers who had to carry 15 kg iron bars and work all day long under the surveillance of supervisors employed by the company. If a female worker spoke even a word to someone next to her, she was taken to the company office for that reason. There about 20 supervisors surrounded her in the office and threatened her, throwing harsh words at her and forcing her to submit a written apology.

The company discharged two workers(Song Hyo Sun, Kim Sun Hui), utilizing their written apologies as reasons for dismissal. He made no protest to the company as representative of the union members against the illegal dismissal of the two workers.

He has been a target of attack for a couple of months as he behaved in a cocky way and always drove his car without doing anything for his union.

3) According to the guideline of the labor union purification drive, those who drive their own cars all around, were targets of purge. This was an expression of the genuine will of those who originally formulated the purification standards for labor union.

II. Unfair Dismissals

A) Unfair Dismissals Carried Out under The Pretext of the "Purification" Drive

The purification drive has not been carried out properly. Enterprise owners, abusing or taking advantage of the purification drive, fired many labor unionists unjustifiably.

1) Hai Tai Confectionery Co., Ltd.

Li Bok Re, the first representative of the Biscuit Department of the Hai Tai Confectionery Company was illegally fired on Oct 23 1980. He was a leading figure in the campaign for an 8-hour day which began in July 1979. The company owner cited letters posted by her 3 colleagues in a suggestion box, demanding that she should be purged, as the main reason for her dismissal. But letters were written at the instigation of the company owner, and the contents were not based on what she actually said, but were exaggerated. Li Bok Re made frequent visits to the company to get a dismissal notice, but the company refused to do so.

2) Lotte Confectionery Co., Ltd.

The Lotte Confectionery Company fired Kim Ok Sung, vice-chairman of the union and Sin Min Ja, chief in charge of female affairs, on Aug. 21, 1980. The reason for their dismissals were that they demanded pay raise and that they were allegedly responsible for a decrease in production after May 17 incident.

After their dismissal, local union chairman Sin Tae Hong (Nov. 15), representative Chong Sun Hae(Nov. 16); Song Ju Sen and other 3 representatives; unionist Ma Ok Tan, Kim Jong Ok, Ri Mi Yong, Li Yong Hwa, Kim Jong Sun, and others, totaling 14, were fired one after another.

Dismissal notices they received from the company mentioned no concrete reasons but only said that they violated company rules stipulated in Article A, and so on. They don't even know why they were fired.

After firing these workers, the company owner made the remaining workers write and submit a pledge that "We will accept any punishment if we have complaints about the company, or conduct an organized action," and told them that he would not fire any representatives and unionists who made "right" assertions.

(To be continued)

Low-Paid S. Korean Workers

The sluggish economic situation in south Korea put the workers in difficult condition. Follow recent surveys showing their worsening situation:

Average Monthly Wages 100,000 Won

According to a study released by the south Korean labor ministry Sep. 25, the number of working people hired by 75,000 firms employing 5 persons or more totaled 3.22 million at the end of last year, and their average monthly salary was 150,747 won. (Tong-A Ilbo, Sep. 28)

The authorities concerned included these firms' department heads and engineers in the number of workers so as to increase the monthly figure.

Department chiefs and engineers get monthly salaries rainging from 300,000 to 500,000 won, while most workers received 100,000 to 130,000 won. Female workers' monthly wage is about 85,000 won.

The Feb. 18 survey conducted by the Korean Federation of Trade Unions, shows that of the unionists totaling 1.065 million, 525,715 or 49.4 percent received monthly wages of less than 100,000 won. Of which 26 percent, or 276,000 were receiving monthly wages of less than 70,000 won.

Of the total female workers numbering 360,700, 90.3 percent received less than 100,000 won wages.

Soaring Living Cost

Another survey conducted by the authorities concerned shows that the minimum monthly living cost is 383,500 won for urban white-color workers' families of five members. (Kwangju Ilbo, Sep. 24)

Of the total household budget, 361,579 won or 94.3 percent was spent for consumer products, and 21,950 or 5.7 percent for non-consumer products, according to a survey.

These figures were based on the household book-keeping records of 700 sampled households which answered the poll.

The monthly household living expenditures break down to 99,930 won for food and groceries (27.6 percent), 86,293 won for housing (23.9 percent) 23,381 won for heating and electricity bills(6.4 percent), 33,867 won for clothing (9.4 percent) and 118,108 won for miscellaneous expenditures(32.7 percent).

The total monthly living cost increased by 34 percent compared with last year, and was 6.3 times over the 1974 figure (60,930 won).

The survey conducted by the Korea Democratic Party, as of Aug. 20, tells a worker in an urban area needs over 446,000 won a month to meet his household expenses to support his five-member family.

This figure is a sharp contrast with the average monthly pay of about 100,000 won to 130,000 won.

Still, case of workers whose wages are in arrears is increasing. The ministry of labor said on Sep. 2 that the unpaid wages of 30,500 workers at 251 firms amounted to 6770 million won.

It is said that the actual amount will be far larger than this figure.

Incredible "gov't" statistics

The jobless rate is also increasing. The Economic Planning Board May 19 announced that the jobless people in the first quarter of the year numbered 817,000 or an increase of 15,000 over the end of last year. (The Tae Jong Ilbo, May 19). The figure at the end of last year was the worst since 1967.

In south Korea a worker who works a mere hour a week is considered as employed worker. Clearly, a worker who works only an hour per week cannot support his family.

So, the jobless people in south Korea, if calculated by the standards of other Western countries would reach 1.0-2.0 million or more.

Chosun Ilbo on Sep. 16 said government lavor statistics are hardly reliable.

South Korea saw 164,325 labor disputes in the first half of this year though labor disputes were banned.

Recently, (Sep. 21) over 2,200 fishermen employed by 42 fisheries companies in Pusan, a major port city at the southern tip of south Korea, went on strike for a better pay and allowances.

(Continued from page 2)

We fully support the proposals for the country's reunification advanced by you Comrade President, the respected and beloved friend, particularly the fair programme whose content is the proposal for instituting the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and the ten-point policy of the unified state put forward by you on the rostrum of the Sixth Congress of your great party.

This programme clearly shows the tested leadership and correct view of you Comrade President, the great friend.

We are convinced that your people will repulse the fascist elements of south Korea and the U.S. imperialists and achieve a new victory, with the Juche philosophy of worldwide significance as a guideline under your wise leadership.

The defeat of the two biggest imperialisms of the world by you in the past proves that the Korean people will certainly win victory in the future, too.

As you, the respected and beloved friend, are convinced, we can confidently say that final victory is in store for Palestine under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and for unified Korea under the wise and correct leadership of you the great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung, the friend of the world liberation fighters.

Concluding my speech, I propose a toast to the good health and long life of the respected and beloved friend Comrade President Kim Il Sung, to the health of Palestinian and Korean peoples, and to the health of comrades present here.

Long live Palestine-Korea friendship!

Glory to the fighters!

Revolution till victory!

Thank you.

Coal Briquets Scandal in South Korea

The Asian Wall Street Journal, in its Oct. 16 issue, said,"In south Korea there is always a scandal. The country's government-controlled media can't criticize the government directly, so it delights in reporting incidents that reflect the government's failure to prevent corruption."

The scandal over the high-priced low-quality coal briquets(yontan)—a major home cooking and heating fuel—has emerged as a new big public issue in south Korea.

Follow cartoons from local daily newspapers showing the south Korean consumer's widespread grievances at the yontan scandal:

"Because of low-quality yontan"

(TONG-A ILBO, OCT. 9)

"housewives are badly inconvenienced."

"You'd better go back home."

"It's time for yontan to go out."

"This yontan saves energy."

(CHOSON ILBO, OCT. 9)

"Why do you give me papers minged with money?"

(CHOSON ILBO, OCT. 10)

"Yontan briquets are also mingled with stones."

Officials are also involved.

(CHOSON ILBO, OCT. 11)

"If you buy 100 yontans, I'll give this doll."

(CHOSON ILBO, OCT. 13)

"Maybe, this looks like the president of the yontan maker."

"Fire went out again!"

"So, he gave this to me."

So many yontans, but....

(HANGUK ILBO, OCT. 13)

Life of Pyongyangites

These snapshots of Pyongyangites, were taken by a photographer of The People's Korea. People in the DPRK are masters of state power and means of production. People are ensured an eight-hour work day, a two-week paid leave a year, accommodation at resorts at state expense.

Per capita national income reached $1,920 at the end of 1979.

◀ A couple enjoying a stroll

Shy females at the sight of a camera ▶

On their way to a store ▶

A lunch break in a park ▼

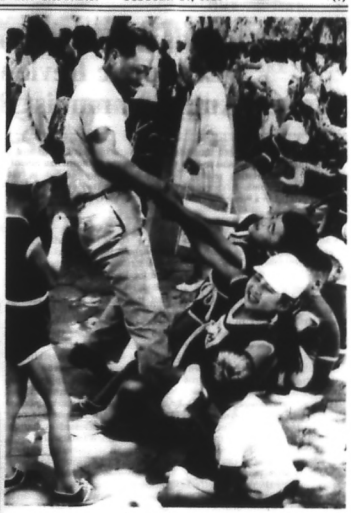
A woman painter in a park

A holiday-making family at a recreation ground

RECEIVED

Children in DPRK

All children of the DPRK are enrolled at schools of various levels under the free 11-year compulsory education system, which includes one-year preschool education. All the four-year-old children are cared in kindergartens at state expense. From 90-day old babies to 3-year-old children are also cared in nurseries and kindergartens, numbering some 60,000 nation-wide.



At an athletic meeting

Children before going on a picnic

At a kindergarten

"I want to be a xylophonist." ▶

◀ Picnicking

Young calisthenic players waiting for their turn

Dividends of Fear: Far Eastern Economic Review on Anti-Communist Bogey

The use of the alleged threat from the north remained unchanged during the era of the late strongman Pak Jung Hi and remains so even today under the authoritarian rule of Gen. Chon Du Hwan.

For an interesting reading, we reprint a story carried in the Aug. 2, 1974 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review under the title, "The Dividends of Fear." The article, the first of the nature ever printed in a Western publication, reads in part:

Korea is back to square one as far as any dialogue between north and south is concerned. The propaganda truce which followed the announcement of secret talks in 1972 has gradually been eroded by the Government of President Park Chung Hee in order to justify his clampdown on political opposition. The bogey of a new threat from the north has been deliberately revived, as a correspondent (not named) reports from Seoul, to ensure the survival of a dictatorial regime.

The joint communique of July 4, 1972, pledging to ease tensions between north and south Korea, was intended to clear the way for eventual reunification of the country. Viewed with hindsight, the opening of contacts after years of hostility has had exactly the opposite effect. The meeting between Red Cross delegations in August and September 1972 briefly lifted the iron curtain between the two Koreas. Journalists who accompanied the south Korean delegates to Pyongyang were able to present a new and unfamiliar view of the communist north.

The south Koreans saw people who were very similar to themselves. Here were apartment blocks, shopping centres and a way of life which differed sharply from the south's traditional propaganda picture. There was a sense of cultural shock, particularly among young people, as decades of indoctrination was erased, or exposed as outright lies. The entire southern ideology, based on virulent anti-communism, was open to question. But despite the confusion this caused, many observers saw hope for a lasting detente after nearly 30 years of hostility.

Those same observers failed to recognize the new, friendly atmosphere was destroying the credibility of the Seoul Government. The only justification for President Park's very personal style of rule is anti-communism. His stance has not changed since the Korean War, although south Korea is now a very different country. The economy has been transformed. A new urban middle class is finding scope for its energies in industry. If detente could be reached with the north, and the south no longer needed to remain an armed camp, corresponding relaxations would be inevitable in the political field.

The President's reaction has been to continue to tighten the screws, accompanied by a revival of the anti-communist campaign. The two trends coincided. When student trouble threatened earlier this year, the ensuing arrests was accompanied by a new government anti-spy campaign. Such propaganda is forbidden under the terms of the 1972 communique, but the campaign began quietly in the countryside, first with the painting of new anti-spy and anti-communist slogans. Slogans were daubed on bus station windows, shops in country towns and on roadside mile posts.

The campaign to re-establish anti-communist ideology reached Seoul a little later, but by May the slogans were in evidence on banners throughout the city. "Catch spies to be patriotic and make our nation flourish under reform," advised an overhead placard at Seoul railway station. Other slogans appeared on towers erected in traffic circles throughout the city, and they were even scrawled on blackboards outside local post offices. People who called telephone information were first treated to a recorded message by a sweet-voiced girl who urged: "Let's report spies by telephoning 113 or 112," before the operator answered.

At the same time, every effort is being made to discredit north Korea and make it appear more aggressive. The government has, since early in the year, maintained that the north is embarked on a new road of increased militarism, and that attack is imminent.

To support its claims of northern belligerency, the south has given wide coverage to a recent series of incidents between the two countries. The first incident occurred on Feburary 15, when a south Korean fishing boat was sunk and another captured by a north Korean patrol craft. In Seoul, the incident was portrayed as an aggressive act. Informed sources in Seoul reported that a large fleet of southern fishing boats guarded by a patrol boat, had been fishing in northern waters on the day before the incident, but had moved south when a north Korean patrol boat appeared. On the following day, two southern fishing boats returned to the area alone. The north Korean boat then either rammed or fired on one of the boats, and captured the other.

The next incident occurred on May 20, when a north Korean infiltrator was discovered on a small island off south Korea. In the ensuing battle to capture him, a policeman and three other south Koreans were killed. The incident hardly illustrated new north Korean aggressiveness; the culprit was simply a spy of the sort both Koreas use in unknown numbers.

More recently, on June 28, a south Korean gunboat was sunk in north Korean waters. The south accused the north of forcing the boat to enter its waters before sinking it. But in joint north-south discussions and in the Military Armistice Commission meeting at Panmunjom following the incident, it was hinted that the boat had actually entered northern waters of its own accord.

Only four days later, the Counter-Espionage Headquarters in Seoul announced that a suspected northern spy boat had been sunk by the south Korean navy in the sea near the southern port of Pusan. Wreckage of the boat has not been found, but six days after the incident, a body in a north Korean uniform with the insignia of a naval lieutenant was found in the waters of the area.

Government press releases linked the body with the "spy" vessel, and said it was proof of northern militancy. But a police report, which was not released, concluded that there were no gunshot wounds and that the body "had not been dead long," indicating that if the man had been on the boat which was sunk six days previously, he would have spent several days swimming before dying. Diplomatic sources in Seoul suggest that the boat might even have been involved in smuggling. In the latest incident, a south Korean naval patrol destroyed a north Korean "spy" boat on July 20.

Meanwhile, the south's campaign against communism gathers momentum. On June 5, the Education Ministry announced that the government would strengthen anti-communist education in the schools at all levels. On June 7, Prime Minister Kim Chong Pil made a speech further fostering anti-communism. "Anti-communism must be rooted deep in our spirit," he said.

On June 25, following an announcement the previous day by Defence Minister Suh Jyong Chul that north Korea was poised for a second invasion of the south, a mammoth rally in Seoul sponsored by the government, with a claimed attendance of 1 million, condemned the north for the recent provocations. The occasion was the 24th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. Placards and posters throughout Seoul urged citizens to "Remember the Korean War."

Chinese, Russian Press Comments

The Oct. 10 People's Daily of Beijing and the October issue of International Affairs of Moscow came out with articles criticizing the U.S. and south Korean defiance of the reunification movement of the Korean people and the trilateral military alliance of Washington, Tokyo and Seoul.

The Chinese People's Daily October 10 carried an article captioned: **"National Reunification Is Ardent Desire of Korean People."**

Noting that on October 10 last year, President Kim Il Sung put forward the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and the ten-point policy of the unified state at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the paper said:

The north side of Korea has made tireless efforts for one year to realize this proposal of weighty significance.

But, contrary to the desire of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the entire Korean people for national reunification, the Chon Du Hwan group of south Korea has persistently stuck as ever to the stand of keeping Korea divided in total disregard of the interests of the nation, going against the trend of the times.

Chon Du Hwan shamelessly prattled that he "hoped for mutual visits of the supreme chiefs". However, it is clear to everyone that Chon Du Hwan, a hangman whose hands are stained with blood of south Korean patriots, is not entitled to represent the south Korean people.

When his deceptive tricks miscarried, Chon Du Hwan openly resorted to military blackmail.

He again brought forward an absurd proposal on "simultaneous entry into the United Nations" of the north and the south.

This is added proof of the crime in continuously partaking in the "two Koreas" plot of the United States.

In a series of dramas staged by Chon Du Hwan, people have come to see clearly that "unification" loudly clamoured about by him is a lie and what he actually seeks is division.

This proves once again that he is a puppet of the United States and executing the U.S. policy of Korean division.

To realise the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea is an internal affair of the 50 million Korean people and no outside interference and intervention can be tolerated.

Today the U.S. troops' presence in south Korea is not only a big obstacle to the realisation of peaceful reunification of Korea but also an important factor detrimental to the relaxation of tension in the Korean Peninsula.

To end the division of Korea and serve peace in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, the United States must withdraw its troops from south Korea and discontinue all the manouvres to perpetuate the division of Korea.

Tragic division of Korea into the north and south has already continued for 36 years. Such situation must no longer be tolerated.

It is the ardent desire of the 50 million people of the Korean Peninsula to reunify the country peacefully and let the fellow countrymen sit together at one place.

The peaceful reunification of Korea is the trend of history and no force can resist it.

The October issue of the Soviet magazine International Affairs published an article denouncing the U.S. support to the south Korean junta of Gen. Chon Du Hwan.

Noting that the U.S. Administration is engrossed in building supplementary props for the south Korean dictator, the magazine said:

The United States plans to allocate nearly 170 million more dollars in the form of loan in the next fiscal year to "modernize" the south Korean puppet army and make the south Korean puppets buy U.S. military and technical equipment including 'F-16" fighter planes, missiles and radar equipment.

At the same time, the U.S. Defence Department is taking comprehensive measures to increase the combat capacity of over 40,000 U.S. troops present in south Korea. One of the measures is joint military exercises of the United States and south Korea which are more frequently staged of late in areas nearest to the Military Demarcation Line.

Pursuing the aim of speedily realizing its Asian aggression plan, the U.S. Administration obstinately increases "contributions" of its allies to the military efforts of the United States.

According to U.S. strategists, such "contributions" should be made above all by Japan.

Saying that the United States is seeking its far-reaching aim, while manoeuvring to strengthen the position of the south Korean dictator, the magazine pointed out:

Clearly outlined behind the increased military and financial aid of the United States and Japan to the Seoul "regime" and the deepening relations among the military organs of the United States, Japan and south Korea, is the new aggressive Washington-Tokyo-Seoul military alliance.

The fabrication of this alliance will no doubt, further aggravate the tension in the Far East, deepen the division of Korea and pose a grave threat to peace in Asia.

The democratic public circles of south Korea began to more clearly understand that the policy of the present dictator continually following the U.S. imperialist policy of aggression like his predecessors will bring about very dangerous consequences. Clear proof of this is the expansion of the ranks of active fighters against the hateful system.

S. Korean Soldier Defects to North; Radio Programs Cited as Factor

A south Korean soldier defected recently to the north by crossing the DMZ, the Korean Central News Agency reported on Oct. 13.

The KCNA identified the defector as Pfc. Li Pil U, 24 of the third squad, the second platoon, the fifth company, the second battalion, the 55th regiment, the 88th division under the East Sea security command of the south Korean army.

Hailing from Songguk-ri, Chochon myon, Puyo County, South Chungchong Province, Li Pil U was quoted by the KCNA as citing radio programs of the north and seeing across the DMZ northern life as a key factor in his defection.

With no details given, radio programs might refer to those of Radio Pyongyang or the Voice of the Revolutionary Party for the Reunification, a clandestine radio station operated in Seoul by south Korean patriots.

A number of years ago, The Los Angeles Times reported thousands of south Korean were listening to Radio Pyongyang for news not reported by the south Korean mass media subjected to severe censorship.

Diplomatic sources in Tokyo believe it is common for south Koreans to secretly listen to Radio Pyongyang.

Expressing joy at his success in reaching the north at last, Pfc. Li revealed life in the south Korean army where "soldiers were treated like slaves" with "physical torture" applied in full.

When he saw northern life across the DMZ while on sentry duty in the forward area and happened to listen to radio programs of the north, the KCNA quoted as the defector saying that a simple but serious question occurred to him:

"Why should I, a son of a poor peasant, be driven into war exercises against the northern half" and "level the rifle against the brothers and sisters of the same blood?"

When he was ordered to stand guard in the forward area, Pfc. Li crossed the DMZ, the KCNA reported.

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